# Immigration Updates

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#### Immigration reform will pass and it political capital is key

Latin American Herald Tribune 7/16 “Obama Ready to Spend Political Capital on Immigration”,

http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=329931&CategoryId=12395

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama told Hispanic Democratic legislators on Wednesday that he will invest his political capital in an immigration reform package whose principles will be revealed during a forum in the next two months.¶ That is what members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus reported after their first meeting with Obama on the subject of immigration.¶ In remarks to reporters, the lawmakers expressed confidence that, with the president’s support, this year the dialogue on comprehensive immigration reform will be resumed, opening a path to legalization for the country’s estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants.¶ The chairwoman of the Hispanic Caucus, New York Democratic Rep. Nydia Velazquez said that the president assured the group “he is a man of his word” and would fulfill his campaign promises to push for immigration reform.¶ Meanwhile, Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) said that during the meeting Obama assured lawmakers that he will invest part of his political capital in moving forward on immigration reform that includes strong measures for border security and a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants.¶ Menendez said that the lawmakers will work with Obama on the “principles” of that reform package, which will be presented at a public forum in the next two months with the aim of starting the dialogue about how to fix the country’s problematic immigration system.¶ “He understands that this is a matter of civil rights,” the senator said of Obama.¶ Gaining approval of a reform plan, Menendez acknowledged, will be “a struggle,” taking into account the opposition of many Republicans and other conservative groups.

**PC is key and finite**

**Nakamura 2/20** (David, “In interview, Obama says he has a year to get stuff done”, 2013, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/02/20/in-interview-obama-says-he-has-a-year-to-get-stuff-done/>, CMR)

President **Obama** said Wednesday he’s **eager to move quickly to enact his second-term agenda, acknowledging** that **he has a severely limited time frame** before the political world begins thinking about the next election cycle in 2014 and beyond.¶ Obama told a San Francisco television station that **he wants to “get as much stuff done as quickly as possible.**”¶ “Once we get through this year, then people start looking at the mid-terms and after that start thinking about the presidential election,” Obama said during a brief interview with KGO, an ABC affiliate. “The American people don’t want us thinking about elections, they want us to do some work. America is poised to grow in 2013 and add a lot of jobs as long as Washington doesn’t get in the way.”¶ **Obama’s remarks were an acknowledgement that** **a second-term president’s ability to use his political capital faces rapidly diminishing returns, highlighting the high stakes of his bids to strike deals with Congress on** issues from tax reform, budget cuts, **immigration** **reform** and gun control.

### 2nc UQ wall

#### Obama political capital is key to compromises that allow passage – will bust out the hammer

Justin Sink 7/15 “Obama takes push for immigration reform to Spanish-language TV”,

http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/311065-obama-takes-push-for-immigration-reform-to-spanish-language-media

President Obama will look to intensify pressure on House Republicans to act on immigration reform with four television interviews on local Spanish-language networks this week.¶ "The president's going to give some interviews to local Spanish-language television where he will talk about, again, the need to move forward on immigration reform," White House press secretary Jay Carney said on Monday. ¶ "He'll talk about the enormous benefits of immigration reform; economic benefits which were made clear by the [Congressional Budget Office], as well as all the other benefits to our businesses, to the rule of law, to the capacity for our country to continue to generate innovative ideas and entrepreneurial advances," Carney added.¶ The Associated Press reported that the interviews will be conducted at the White House on Tuesday with stations from Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles and New York.¶ The White House has thus far kept a behind-the-scenes role in the battle over immigration reform amid worries that a heavy-handed campaign-style approach could spook Republicans crucial to the bill's success. ¶ There have been signs, however, that the president is looking to increase his role in recent weeks, as concern mounts that legislation could stall in the GOP-controlled House.¶ Over the weekend, senior White House adviser Dan Pfeiffer told the AP that "there might be a moment where the hammer comes out, but we're not there yet" on immigration.¶ Carney reiterated that threat on Monday.¶ “When that moment arrives, if that arrives,” he said. ¶ "What has been our approach all along has been to evaluate the progress that comprehensive immigration reform has been making in the Congress and against that progress to make judgments about how we can best, from the president on down, advance the cause," he added.¶ Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and Congressional Hispanic Caucus who visited the White House last week said that Obama was weighing a barnstorming trip around the country. The White House, though, has refused to confirm those plans, saying merely that it is under consideration.¶ On Thursday, Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), two authors of the Senate’s bipartisan immigration bill, wouldn't comment directly on reports that the president was considering taking his immigration message across the country after meeting with him in the Oval Office. ¶ The senators said the president realized he needed to bring GOP members onboard.¶ “I believe the president, as a result of our meetings, will be respectful,” McCain said. “The challenge here is to get Republican members.”¶ McCain added that he believed Obama “is willing to work with everybody and make compromises that are necessary.”¶ “To somehow say that he shouldn't be involved in that discussion is foolish,” McCain added.

#### Obama will push – key to house

USA Today 7/15 http://www.usatoday.com/story/theoval/2013/07/15/obama-immigration-spanish-language-television/2518657/

President Obama will hit the airwaves Tuesday to promote passage of an immigration bill, speaking with four Univision and Telemundo affiliates.¶ Anchors from New York, Los Angeles, Dallas and Denver will have access to other officials for what are billed as "Live from the White House" broadcasts.¶ The Democratic-run Senate has passed an immigration bill, but it faces rough going in the Republican-run House.¶ Obama "will talk about, again, the need to move forward on immigration reform," said White House spokesman Jay Carney, and he will stress the "economic benefits" of improving the immigration system.

#### Obama will push immigration now until recess

Zachary A. Goldfarb 7/7 “Obama’s summertime push: Immigration and the economy”, http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-07-07/politics/40427679\_1\_president-obama-house-republicans-white-house

With several controversies fading and a period of intense foreign travel over, President Obama is narrowing his focus this summer to two issues, immigration and the economy, that could help determine the success or failure of his second term.¶ On immigration, Obama is devising a new, more public strategy that will include events in states with large Latino populations, advisers say — part of an aggressive effort to pressure House Republicans who remain skeptical of proposed changes. The White House intends to rally GOP constituencies friendly to the cause, as well, including business and evangelical groups.¶ The president also plans a series of summertime events focused on steps the government can take to drive economic growth, aides said. Many in the White House see a Sept. 30 deadline to renew government funding as probably the last opportunity for Obama to scale back the deep domestic spending cuts known as sequestration before the 2014 midterm elections.¶ The two-pronged focus comes after months of firefighting and distractions for Obama, who spent the first half of the year forming a new Cabinet and zig-zagging from one issue to another, including an unsuccessful bid for new gun regulations. The spring also brought a spate of controversies that raised questions about the administration’s credibility, forcing the president to address why IRS employees scrutinized conservative groups and whether the government was spying on millions of Americans.¶ White House officials say they do not discount the difficulties that lie ahead. Abroad, Obama is struggling with how to apprehend fugitive leaker Edward Snowden and how to respond to turmoil in Egypt. At home, the administration is encountering problems in launching its landmark health-care expansion. And the president’s greatest ambitions must run through the Republican-controlled House, where there is little appetite for compromise.¶ But advisers think that some of Obama’s most vexing political problems have faded in recent weeks, leaving him ready to begin the focused push on immigration and the economy. His aides say the president is buoyed by the Senate’s passage of an immigration bill and by a steady stream of positive economic news, including a report Friday showing robust job growth.¶ “When you’re toiling in the vineyard through a tumultuous spring, it can be hard to see it all coming together,” said Jennifer Palmieri, the White House communications director. But now, she said, “you can see it coming together.”¶ Still, Obama continues to face strong opposition among congressional Republicans, particularly in the House. If he continues on his current path, some GOP lawmakers say, they will make it as difficult as possible.¶ “We’re going to continue to be very aggressive in serving as a check and balance against the Obama administration. That’s what the country said in November,” said Rep. Steve Scalise (La.), a conservative leader, referring to continued Republican control of the House. “We’re very far apart.”¶ Taking stock of the year¶ Amid a busy June — which included trips to Europe and Africa, a high-level summit with Chinese leaders in California, and a major speech on climate change — Obama and his aides began taking stock of the first half of the year and making plans for the second, according to an official familiar with the talks, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.¶ The president has faced sharp criticism from some fellow Democrats that he gave away too much in a tax deal at the start of the year and did not stop sequestration. But Obama’s advisers say they are satisfied that they have been able to wrestle the short-term deficit to the ground, in part by raising taxes on the wealthy, and make lower tax rates for the middle class permanent; they are also relieved that the Senate passed the immigration bill “with fewer near-death experiences” than feared.¶ White House officials are hopeful that a slowdown in health-care costs will have staying power, and they see last month’s Supreme Court ruling against a key part of the Defense of Marriage Act as a victory.¶ But Obama has made clear to his team that he will try to focus as much as possible in the coming months on his economic and immigration goals, aides said.¶ “The president and the staff always knew that the first half of the year was going to be focused on issues that were important — such as guns, immigration and overseas travel — but not necessarily bedrock middle-class economic issues,” Palmieri said. “We still have a lot of work to do to get immigration done, but, as planned, we expect to have the ability to focus on core middle-class economic issues in the second half of this year.”¶ In the coming weeks, Obama faces a number of difficult decisions, including whom to appoint as Federal Reserve chairman — a choice whose impact will last beyond his presidency — and, potentially, how best to honor Nelson Mandela if he dies.¶ But immigration is likely to dominate much of this month, before the House goes on recess in August. White House officials say the president will take a more public role than he did amid the Senate deliberations because a large faction of House Republicans oppose providing a path to citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants in the country. With the Senate, where lawmakers in both parties were aggressively pursuing a deal, the White House wanted to be careful not to upset the talks.¶ Obama will stress that immigration reform would reduce the federal deficit, as the Congressional Budget Office recently found, aides said.¶ “We’re going to ramp up the heat on the House to get this done and to create an environment were folks are going to be aware of the price of inaction,” said one senior White House official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal strategy.¶ After only occasionally talking about economic initiatives in the first half of the year, Obama also wants to refocus attention on the economy in July and August; budget negotiations are expected to heat up after Labor Day. One of the first tasks will be to restore low student loan rates, which doubled on July 1 after lawmakers and the White House failed to finalize a deal.¶ The president will embrace what a longtime adviser called an “investment strategy,” underscoring the need for government spending on things like roads and bridges. The administration will also renew its call to end sequestration, although many GOP critics argue that the cuts have had little negative impact on the economy.¶ In addition, Obama is likely to emphasize a mortgage refinance plan, begin discussing an overhaul of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and talk about the need to confirm Richard Cordray, his pick to lead the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. New executive actions on programs to help teach job skills to workers will be on the agenda, too, officials said.

### UQ – A2 UQ overwhelms

#### Recent agreement was huge --- but major hurdles require PC and continued compromise

Fox 3/30 (“Labor, big business agree on key part of immigration reform, but final deal still faces hurdles”, <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/03/30/labor-big-business-agree-on-key-part-immigration-reform-but-final-deal-still/#ixzz2P5p41vO5>,

Organized labor and big business have reached a deal on a new, low-skilled workers program that will help clear the way for Capitol Hill immigration reform, but President Obama and a leading Republican senator maintain cautious optimism about a final deal.¶ The deal was reached during a Friday night phone call between AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and U.S. Chamber of Commerce chief executive Tom Donohue, according to several news organizations and confirmed by Fox News.¶ The deal was brokered by New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who also was on the phone call and is one of eight senators working on bipartisan reform legislation.¶ "This issue has always been the dealbreaker on immigration reform, but not this time," Schumer said. ¶ "The strength of the consensus across America for just reform has afforded us the momentum needed to forge an agreement in principle to develop a new type of employer visa system," Trumka said in a statement late Saturday. "We expect that this new program, which benefits not just business, but everyone, will promote long overdue reforms by raising the bar for existing programs."¶ Despite the breakthrough, Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio’s office cautioned Saturday that Congress still has a long way to go before passing legislation in the Democrat-controlled Senate and the Republican-controlled House.¶ Rubio sent a letter Saturday to Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., calling for a deliberate hearing process on the new legislation and cautioning against a "rush to legislate." ¶ “Senate negotiators are making good progress on immigration reform, but we're not done yet,” Rubio press secretary Alex Conant tweeted Saturday.¶ White House spokesman Clark Stevens said Obama continues to be encouraged by the progress being made by the bipartisan group of senators.¶ “We look forward to seeing language once it is introduced and expect legislation to move forward as soon as possible,” he said.¶ A source told The Associated Press, on the condition of anonymity, the deal resolves disagreements over wages for new, low-income workers and which industries would be included. ¶ All members of the so-called Gang of Eight are expected to sign off on the agreement.¶ The remaining big hurdles to passage are securing the U.S. borders, cracking down on employers who hire illegally and creating a pathway to citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants already in the country.¶ The bipartisan group is expected to introduce the bill officially the week of April 8, after Congress returns from a two-week recess.¶ The AFL-CIO and the Chamber had been fighting over wages for tens of thousands of low-skilled workers who would be brought in under the new program to fill jobs in construction, hotels and resorts, nursing homes and restaurants and other industries.¶ On Friday, officials from both sides said there was basic agreement on the wage issue, and Schumer said a final deal on the worker dispute was very close.¶ "We're feeling very optimistic on immigration: Aspiring Americans will receive the road map to citizenship they deserve and we can modernize `future flow' without reducing wages for any local workers, regardless of what papers they carry," AFL-CIO spokesman Jeff Hauser said in a statement earlier this week. "Future flow" refers to future arrivals of legal immigrants.¶ Under the emerging agreement between business and labor, a new "W" visa program would bring tens of thousands of lower-skilled workers a year to the country. The program would be capped at 200,000 a year, but the number of visas would fluctuate, depending on unemployment rates, job openings, employer demand and data collected by a new federal bureau pushed by the labor movement as an objective monitor of the market.¶ The workers would be able to change jobs and could seek permanent residency. Under current temporary worker programs, personnel can't move from employer to employer and have no path to permanent U.S. residence and citizenship. And currently there's no good way for employers to bring many low-skilled workers to the U.S. An existing visa program for low-wage nonagricultural workers is capped at 66,000 per year and is supposed to apply only to seasonal or temporary jobs.¶ The Chamber of Commerce said workers would earn actual wages paid to American workers or the prevailing wages for the industry they're working in, whichever is higher. The Labor Department determines prevailing wage based on customary rates in specific localities, so that it varies from city to city.¶ The low-skilled worker issue had loomed for weeks as perhaps the toughest matter to settle in months-long, closed-door talks on immigration among the senators, including Republicans John McCain, Arizona, and Rubio.¶ The issue helped sink the last major attempt at immigration overhaul in 2007, when the legislation foundered on the Senate floor after an amendment was added to end a temporary worker program after five years, threatening a key priority of the business community.¶ The amendment passed by just one vote, 49-48. Obama, a senator at the time, joined in the narrow majority voting to end the program after five years.¶ The president, who won roughly 71 percent of the Hispanic vote during his November re-election, has made immigration reform a key part of his second term. And Republicans are attempting to improve their relationship with Hispanics, the fasting growing segment of the U.S. populations.

#### It’s a first step – rocky road still ahead

Businessweek 3/31 “Business-Labor Agreement Reached on U.S. Guest Worker Program” http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-03-30/business-labor-agreement-reached-on-u-dot-s-dot-guest-worker-program

A deal between business and labor leaders on allocating visas to low-skilled foreign workers sidesteps what probably will be one of many divisions that risk scuttling efforts to rewrite U.S. immigration law. The agreement is designed to resolve a long-simmering dispute over a proposed guest-worker program that had been impeding Senate efforts to spearhead the broadest changes in immigration-law in almost 30 years. The heads of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation’s largest business lobbying group, and the AFL-CIO, the biggest labor federation, reached the accord late on March 29. The plan is “just a first step” on what will be a long and rocky road toward revamping U.S. immigration law, said Tamar Jacoby, president of ImmigrationWorks USA, a nationwide federation of state-based business groups that advocate rewriting immigration laws. If history is any guide, “battles will be fierce” and immigration-law proposals will face additional obstacles as they work through Congress, Jacoby said yesterday in a telephone interview. Aides to lawmakers and the Chamber of Commerce stressed that the tentative deal hasn’t been approved by an eight-member bipartisan Senate group working on immigration legislation. “The senators will make the decisions about any final agreements and what makes the best public policy overall,” Blair Latoff Holmes, spokeswoman for the U.S. Chamber, said in an e-mailed statement. Republican Challenge Democrats who control the Senate will have difficulty garnering the 60 votes needed for passage in that chamber, and the Republican-controlled House poses an even greater challenge. President George W. Bush, a Republican, tried unsuccessfully from 2005 to 2007 to get immigration legislation through Congress. President Barack Obama’s push for a smaller- scale immigration law in 2010 similarly failed. Florida Senator Marco [Rubio], a Republican member of the Senate group, said yesterday in a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, that “a rush to legislate, without fully considering all views and input from all senators, could be fatal to the effort of earning the public’s confidence.”

#### This just supercharges the link – plan give opponents time to regroup and kill reform

Grant 3/20 (David, “For immigration reform, time could be of the essence”, 2013, <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/2013/0320/For-immigration-reform-time-could-be-of-the-essence>

As immigration reform legislation percolates in closed-door, bipartisan working groups in the House and Senate, lawmakers are approaching their self-imposed deadline of mid-April to lay out actual legislation.¶ But, with opposition groups rallying their forces, the speed at which lawmakers can move to a vote could determine whether the legislation can make it to President Obama's desk at all.¶ Those working on immigration reform clearly feel that the wind is at their back right now.¶ House minority leader Nancy Pelosi (D) of California told the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday that an immigration bill would be finished before the summer, echoing remarks from leading immigration reformer Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D) of Illinois on Tuesday, who said that “the moment is right politically, and the further away we get from Election Day 2012, the less urgency there will be.”¶ That's also how Rep. Raul Labrador (R) of Idaho, Representative Gutierrez's counterpart among House conservatives, sees things – albeit with a little longer time window.¶ Without legislation that is “well on its way by the end of the year, I think you get into the silly season, the political season, and nothing is going to get done,” he says. “I hope that something is at least fully vetted by December.”

### A2 TPA

#### Obama is not going to push not part of his economic agenda and immigration first

Zachary A. Goldfarb 7/7 “Obama’s summertime push: Immigration and the economy”, http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-07-07/politics/40427679\_1\_president-obama-house-republicans-white-house

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At home, the administration is encountering problems in launching its landmark health-care expansion. And the president’s greatest ambitions must run through the Republican-controlled House, where there is little appetite for compromise.¶ But advisers think that some of Obama’s most vexing political problems have faded in recent weeks, leaving him ready to begin the focused push on immigration and the economy. His aides say the president is buoyed by the Senate’s passage of an immigration bill and by a steady stream of positive economic news, including a report Friday showing robust job growth.¶ “When you’re toiling in the vineyard through a tumultuous spring, it can be hard to see it all coming together,” said Jennifer Palmieri, the White House communications director. But now, she said, “you can see it coming together.”¶ Still, Obama continues to face strong opposition among congressional Republicans, particularly in the House. If he continues on his current path, some GOP lawmakers say, they will make it as difficult as possible.¶ “We’re going to continue to be very aggressive in serving as a check and balance against the Obama administration. That’s what the country said in November,” said Rep. Steve Scalise (La.), a conservative leader, referring to continued Republican control of the House. “We’re very far apart.”¶ Taking stock of the year¶ Amid a busy June — which included trips to Europe and Africa, a high-level summit with Chinese leaders in California, and a major speech on climate change — Obama and his aides began taking stock of the first half of the year and making plans for the second, according to an official familiar with the talks, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.¶ The president has faced sharp criticism from some fellow Democrats that he gave away too much in a tax deal at the start of the year and did not stop sequestration. 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With the Senate, where lawmakers in both parties were aggressively pursuing a deal, the White House wanted to be careful not to upset the talks.¶ Obama will stress that immigration reform would reduce the federal deficit, as the Congressional Budget Office recently found, aides said.¶ “We’re going to ramp up the heat on the House to get this done and to create an environment were folks are going to be aware of the price of inaction,” said one senior White House official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal strategy.¶ After only occasionally talking about economic initiatives in the first half of the year, Obama also wants to refocus attention on the economy in July and August; budget negotiations are expected to heat up after Labor Day. 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### PC key

#### Obama push key – avoiding partisan fights key to effectiveness

Favole 7/16 [Jared, Wall Street Journal, “Obama Says Immigration Must Be Considered as Package”, http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/07/16/obama-says-immigration-must-be-considered-as-package/]

Lawmakers of both parties who helped craft immigration legislation that passed the Senate have said they want Mr. Obama to play an active role in the debate. Sens. John McCain (R., Ariz.) and Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.), both members of the Senate “Gang of Eight” that helped win passage of the bill in the Senate, met with Mr. Obama at the White House last week to discuss immigration. They said they wanted Mr. Obama to push the debate but avoid partisan rhetoric that could force Republicans to reject the legislation. “I would just remind you that the challenge here is to get Republican members on board as we shape a solution, so we want to be very careful that … Republican House members in the districts that they’ve represented a long time do not feel that they’re being pressured by the president of the United States,” Mr. McCain said after meeting with the president.

#### PC is key

Anniston Star 3/27 (“On the offensive: Obama is wise to start anew the push for immigration reform”, <http://annistonstar.com/view/full_story/22088295/article-On-the-offensive--Obama-is-wise-to-start-anew-the-push-for-immigration-reform?instance=opinion_lead>, CMR)

The point: President Obama didn’t fulfill his promise of securing sweeping immigration-reform policies during his first term. Now in his second, Obama is beginning a new campaign to urge legislators — particularly Republicans — to find a bipartisan compromise that (a.) isn’t watered down and (b.) is effective.¶ It’s a lot to ask.¶ Nevertheless, Obama is wise to go on this offensive. The need, as always, is great.¶ An Associated Press report this week points out that the president is working behind the scenes in order to keep Republicans at the negotiating table between now and Congress’ April 8 return from spring break. The key is the Senate working group, the Gang of Eight, that is putting together a bipartisan plan the White House has yet to see. “We’ll reserve judgment on the product of those discussions until it’s produced,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.¶

#### PC still key – overcomes GOP intransigence

Huerta 3/15 – a UCLA visiting scholar at the Chicano Studies Research Center (Alavaro, “We need real immigration reform”, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2013/03/15/185971/we-need-real-immigration-reform.html#storylink=cpy>, CMR)

The time has arrived for President Obama and Congress to take immediate action on comprehensive, humane immigration reform.¶ By immigration reform, I am not talking about militarizing our borders, empowering employers to behave as immigration enforcement officials and imposing fines and back taxes on aspiring citizens. Instead, I am talking about allowing labor to cross our borders as transnational capital does, preventing employers from exploiting immigrant laborers and lowering application costs for future citizens.¶ Too often, when Democratic and Republican leaders speak about comprehensive immigration reform, their message mainly centers on enforcement-dominated policies. For instance, while Obama spoke eloquently about immigrants in his second inaugural address, his administration has deported more immigrants than that of his predecessor, President Bush, during the same time period.¶ As the Obama administration continues to separate hardworking immigrants from their families and friends, I find it hard to believe the president when he says, "Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity."¶ I don't find the deportation of more than 1.6 million undocumented immigrants during Obama's first term in office as "welcoming."¶ Moreover, given that Republican leaders remain hostile and pay only lip service to Latinos and immigrants in this country, it's incumbent on Obama and Democratic leaders to invest the necessary political capital for the benefit of the estimated 11 undocumented immigrants in this country.

#### Political capital is still key---Obama’s leading negotiations with the GOP

AFP 2/19 “Obama courts key Republicans on immigration reform,” 2013, Factiva

US President Barack Obama on Tuesday called key Senate Republicans, with whom he is at odds on other many top issues, to discuss the prospects for bipartisan immigration reform.¶ Obama placed the calls following complaints he had not done enough to reach across the political aisle on the key issue, and after the leak of partial White House immigration plans angered Republican players in the debate.¶ The White House said that Obama had spoken to Republican Senators Lindsey Graham, John McCain and Marco Rubio, to discuss a "shared commitment to bipartisan, commonsense immigration reform."¶ "The President reiterated that he remains supportive of the effort underway in Congress, and that he hopes that they can produce a bill as soon as possible that reflects shared core principles on reform."¶ "He thanked the senators for their leadership, and made clear that he and his staff look forward to continuing to work together with their teams to achieve needed reform."¶ Obama's aides said he also wanted to speak to Republican Senator Jeff Flake, of Arizona, but was unable to reach him because he was traveling.¶ Cuban-American Rubio, a rising star of the Republican Party, is emerging as a key player in the immigration debate, and he warned that leaked versions of White House plans obtained by USA Today would be "dead on arrival."¶ Eight senators -- four of Obama's Democratic allies and four Republicans -- unveiled a joint plan last month aiming to provide a route to legal status for illegal immigrants living on US soil.¶ Under the White House fallback plan, illegal immigrants would have to wait eight years until applying for legal permanent residency, and, in practice, at least 13 years before they could apply for US citizenship.¶ Advocates of immigration reform say that time period is too long -- while conservative opponents still rail against "amnesty" for illegal immigrants, reflecting the toxicity of much of the immigration reform debate.¶ Obama had been sharply at odds with Graham and McCain for their role in delaying the confirmation of his pick for defense secretary Chuck Hagel.¶ His call to Rubio, who is traveling in the Middle East, came after the Florida senator's office had said that no one in his office had met White House officials to discuss immigration.¶ The White House had maintained that its staffers had met congressional officials working on immigration reform.¶ Obama's move may be seen as an effort to prevent partisan wrangling from derailing hopes of immigration reform, as it did under the presidency of his predecessor George W. Bush.¶ Immigration reform may be Obama's best chance for a genuine legacy-boosting success in his second term.¶ Senior Republicans, meanwhile, are wary of entering another election hampered by the mistrust of Hispanic voters, a growing slice of the electorate for whom immigration reform is a key issue.¶ A key sticking point in the debate is the Republican demand that the process of offering legal status to illegals should only start once the US southern border with Mexico has been certified as secure.¶ Obama has so far declined to make that linkage.

#### Political capital is key.

DMN 1-2-2013, p. [www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/20130102-editorial-actions-must-match-obamas-immigration-pledge.ece](http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/20130102-editorial-actions-must-match-obamas-immigration-pledge.ece)

The president’s words to NBC’s David Gregory are only that — words. What will really matter is whether he puts his muscle into the task this year. We suggest that Obama start by looking at the example of former President George W. Bush. Back in 2006 and 2007, the Republican and his administration constantly worked Capitol Hill to pass a comprehensive plan. They failed, largely because Senate Republicans balked. But the opposition didn’t stop the Bush White House from fully engaging Congress, including recalcitrant Republicans. Obama may have a similar problem with his own party. The dirty little secret in the 2006 and 2007 immigration battles was that some Democrats were content to let Senate Republicans kill the effort. Labor-friendly Democrats didn’t want a bill, either. And they may not want one this year. That reluctance is a major reason the president needs to invest in this fight. He must figure out how to bring enough Democrats along, while also reaching out to Republicans. In short, the nation doesn’t need a repeat of the process through which the 2010 health care legislation was passed. Very few Republicans bought into the president’s plan, leaving the Affordable Care Act open to partisan sniping throughout last year’s election. If the nation is going to create a saner immigration system, both parties need to support substantial parts of an answer. The new system must include a guest worker program for future immigrants and a way for illegal immigrants already living here to legalize their status over time. Some House Republicans will object to one or both of those reforms, so Speaker John Boehner must be persuasive about the need for a wholesale change. But the leadership that matters most will come from the White House. The president has staked out the right position. Now he needs to present a bill and fight this year for a comprehensive solution. Nothing but action will count. HE SAID IT … “I’ve said that fixing our broken immigration system is a top priority. I will introduce legislation in the first year [of the second term] to get that done. I think we have talked about it long enough. We know how we can fix it. We can do it in a comprehensive way that the American people support. That’s something we should get done.” President Barack Obama, in an interview on Meet the Press Sunday

#### **Obama push building bipart consensus – but PC key to resolve outstanding issues**

Star-Telegram 2/8 (“Group plans bipartisan push on immigration reform”, <http://www.star-telegram.com/2013/02/08/4610238/group-plans-bipartisan-push-on.html>, CMR)

The effort is also meant to underscore that there is a bipartisan consensus behind passing immigration legislation. Bipartisan Senate negotiators are aiming to finalize a bill by March and get it through the Senate by summer, although success is far from certain.¶ Even if legislation gets through the Senate, the Republican-led House would still have to approve it.¶ President Barack Obama is also pushing the issue.¶ "I hope it makes plain that there is bipartisan support for pro-growth solutions that would result from immigration reform," Barbour said.¶ Rendell said "there are a lot of issues that are yet to be resolved and it's going to take a lot of good will and a lot of patience, and anyone who thinks we're going to have an immigration bill by the end of March is probably a cockeyed optimist."¶ "Obviously this cannot wait," Cisneros said. "If we're going to be helpful, we need to weigh in immediately."

#### Obama’s capital is key

Shifter, 12/27 --- adjunct professor of Latin American politics at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service (12/27/2012, Michael, Revista Ideel, “Will Obama Kick the Can Down the Road?” <http://www.thedialogue.org/page.cfm?pageID=32&pubID=3186>) CR

There is, however, a notable change in Obama’s style compared to the first term. He is far more confident and is proclaiming clear positions on key issues, such as raising tax rates on the most wealthy. Previously, Obama had been quite passive and would ask the Congress to present him with a proposal. Today, buoyed by a decisive win in November and more enthusiastic and expectant Democratic supporters, Obama is more inclined to take the initiative and draw some clear lines.

How the “fiscal cliff” question is managed and ultimately resolved will likely shape the tenor and climate for Obama’s second-term agenda. If it leaves a bitter taste, then the rest of Obama’s domestic priorities will be more difficult to achieve. If both parties think they gained something in the bargain, prospects for results in other areas will improve.

Not surprisingly, Obama has been explicit that reforming the US’s shameful and broken immigration system will be a top priority in his second term. There is every indication that he intends to use some of his precious political capital – especially in the first year – to push for serious change. The biggest lesson of the last election was that the “Latino vote” was decisive. No one doubts that it will be even more so in future elections. During the campaign, many Republicans -- inexplicably -- frightened immigrants with offensive rhetoric. But the day after the election, there was talk, in both parties, of comprehensive immigration reform.

Despite the sudden optimism about immigration reform, there is, of course, no guarantee that it will happen. It will require a lot of negotiation and deal-making. Obama will have to invest a lot of his time and political capital -- twisting some arms, even in his own party. Resistance will not disappear.

There is also a chance that something unexpected could happen that would put off consideration of immigration reform. Following the horrific massacre at a Connecticut elementary school on December 14, for example, public pressure understandably mounted for gun control, at least the ban of assault weapons. But a decision to pursue that measure -- though desperately needed -- would take away energy and time from other priorities like immigration.

#### Obama’s prioritization is key to passage

Hesson, ‘13 (Ted, 1/2/2013, “Analysis: 6 Things Obama Needs To Do for Immigration Reform,” <http://abcnews.go.com/ABC_Univision/News/things-president-obama-immigration-reform/story?id=18103115#.UOR2lXfbhtE)>) CR

On Sunday, President Barack Obama said that immigration reform is a "top priority" on his agenda and that he would introduce legislation in his first year.

To find out what he needs to do to make reform a reality, we talked to Lynn Tramonte, the deputy director at America's Voice, a group that lobbies for immigration reform, and Muzaffar Chishti, the director of the New York office of Migration Policy Institute, a think tank. Here's what we came up with.

1. Be a Leader

During Obama's first term, bipartisan legislation never got off the ground. The president needs to do a better job leading the charge this time around, according to Chishti. "He has to make it clear that it's a high priority of his," he said. "He has to make it clear that he'll use his bully pulpit and his political muscle to make it happen, and he has to be open to using his veto power." His announcement this weekend is a step in that direction, but he needs to follow through.